


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-312	Meeting:	August 5, 2024
	Agenda Item:	7	Roll Call:	24-1047
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) Application to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Citywide installation of flashing yellow arrow traffic signal heads along five (5) corridors.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval and authorization to submit an application to IDOT for FY 2026 TSIP funding for the Citywide installation of flashing yellow arrow (FYA) traffic signal heads along five (5) corridors. IDOT has an annual program to provide funds for traffic safety improvements. The maximum request for funding per project is \$500,000. The deadline for this year's application is August 15, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount:

Estimated Total Project Costs:

Materials and Equipment Costs	\$294,500
Installation (City staff)	\$55,500
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Estimated Total Project Costs	\$350,000

Funding Source:

- \$294,500 – TSIP Funding Request.
- \$55,500 - FY 2024-25 Operating Budget, Page 71, Engineering Department, T&T – Signal Installation and Maintenance, EG062079, Road Use Tax Fund

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

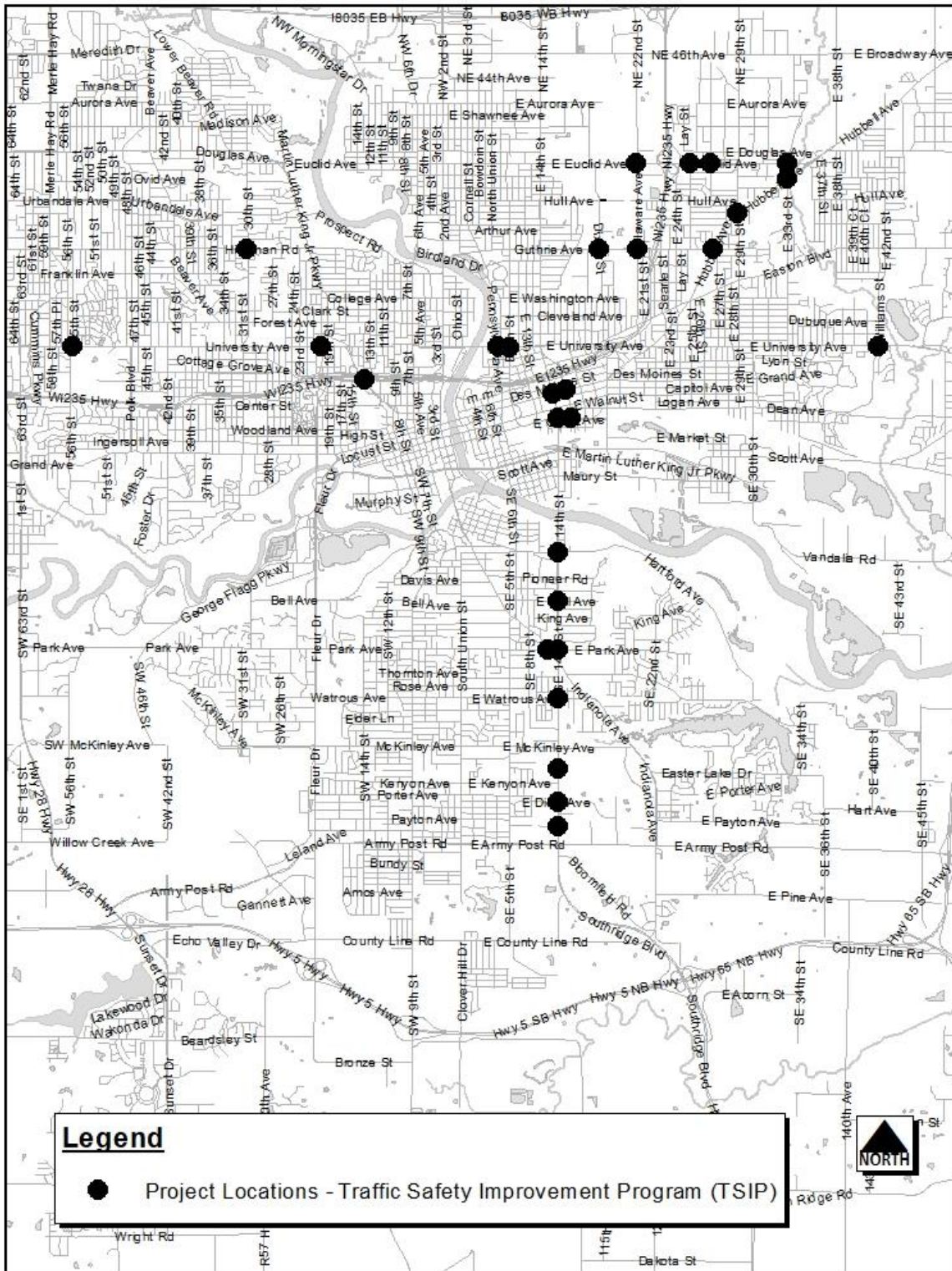
- IDOT implemented an annual program beginning in 1988 to provide for statewide traffic safety improvements. These improvements may include roadway construction projects to correct high-crash locations, upgrading of obsolete traffic control devices to comply with the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, or traffic studies to determine how to correct a safety problem. Since the program began, Des Moines has been successful in securing funding, including several major intersection improvements, traffic signal upgrades, and other safety

projects. Applications are currently being accepted until August 15, 2024, for the next programming cycle.

- Funding requests may be up to \$500,000 per project. Available funding for the TSIP Traffic Control Device category is \$500,000 per year. Historically, IDOT has received applications for more funding than available.
- The Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan was adopted by City Council at its June 26, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. The Plan advances the goals and objectives contained in PlanDSM and MoveDSM and sets forth a plan of measures and strategies to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040 on streets within the City of Des Moines.
- As a part of the development of the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan, detailed analyses were conducted on traffic crashes reported in the years from 2017 to 2021 to identify street corridors on the High Injury Network (HIN) that have high levels of fatal and severe injury crashes.
- Staff has reviewed traffic signal locations and corridors and recommends 28 intersections along five (5) corridors be submitted for TSIP funds based on the high number of left-turn crashes and potential for serious injury crashes
- The proposed project will install four (4)-section FYA left-turn traffic signal heads and retroreflective backplates along the following five (5) main corridors: E 14th Street (US 69)/SE 14th Street (US 69), University Avenue/E University Avenue (IA 163), E Euclid Avenue (US 6), Hubbell Avenue and Guthrie Avenue, and at two (2) other isolated intersections. The intersections identified for improved traffic signal heads are shown in the project map below.
- Focusing on city corridors that are also federal or state routes provides consistency in traffic signal operations along the corridor and aids in driver expectancy. The safety improvements focus on three (3) main areas:
 - Upgrading existing left turn traffic signal heads to comply with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) current standard of a four (4)-section head with a left turn FYA arrow centered over exclusive left turn lanes;
 - Updating the left turn traffic signal phasing to either change from permissive to protected/permissive or from protected/permissive to protected only during peak travel times; and
 - Installing retroreflective backplates which is a FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasure to reduce crashes.

These improvements are supported by the City's Transportation Master Plan called MoveDSM, and the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan.

- The estimated total project cost is \$350,000 with TSIP Funds in the amount of \$294,500 being requested to assist in covering those costs. The TSIP Funds would cover the materials and equipment costs. Receipt of TSIP Funding would provide for equipment installation to start in FY 2026.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

If approved by IDOT for funding, project agreements would be presented to City Council for consideration.

City staff anticipate actions related to purchasing materials and equipment.

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